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REPORT NO.

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East Germany

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Restrictions on Armament Production by the  
East German Radio and Telecommunications  
Main Administration

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORTING

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On 15 July 1953, [ ] on the basis of a decision taken by the State Secretary of the Ministry for General Machine Building on 11 June 1953, the RDT Main Administration had cancelled armament orders including the measuring sets production programs of Funkwerk Erfurt, Funkwerk Dresden, and Messgeraetewerk Zwoenitz; the armament orders placed with Funkwerk Kraspenick, Funkwerk Labendorf, Funkwerk Zittau-Obersdorf, and Funkwerk Leipzig; the armament orders placed with Fernmeldewerk Arnstadt, Fernmeldewerk Leipzig, and Fernmeldewerk Treptow; and the ME-8 program. The RDT Main Administration also ordered that imports of P 2 iron, nickel band, molydenum, wolframite, and carbonyl iron from western countries be cancelled.

Following a conference held at the Ministry for General Machine Building on 13 July 1953, up to 60 percent of armament orders, placed with plants which had formerly been controlled by RFT VVB, were cancelled in favor of civilian supply. Plants concerned included Sternradio Rochlitz, Sternradio Sonneberg, Sternradio Stassfurt, Sternradio Berlin, Funkwerk Leipzig, Funkwerk Dresden, Funkwerk Mittau-Oldersdorf, Funkwerk Koellada, Geraetewerk Radebaul, Glockenwerk Eisenach, and Elektrofeinmechanik Mittweida. [redacted] no information on production cuts at other RFT plants.

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7. In late June 1953, supplementary plan A of the budget and investment plan for telecommunications of the Postal and Telecommunications Ministry was reduced from 6,000,000 to 4,000,000 eastmarks. Supplementary plan B, amounting to 7,500,000 eastmarks, was completely cancelled. The funds saved were scheduled to be used for food supply.

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If this measure were executed, part of the production of Fernmeldewerk  
 Arnstadt would have to be stopped and a large section of the labor force  
 would be dismissed. Fernmeldewerk Treptow was the principal plant to be  
 affected by the cut of supplementary plan B. In early July, a large number of  
 delivery terms for orders placed by the Postal and Telecommunications  
 Ministry were postponed four or five months.

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### CLASSIFICATION

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4. The Zentrallaboratorium fuer Fernmeldewesen Treptow started producing 33 of 50 lamp switchboards which were ordered after the cancellation of VP orders had been countermanded on 2 July 1953. These 33 lamp switchboards were to be delivered by 1 October 1953, and the others by late 1953. A proposal was made to increase the plan by 2,000,000 eastmarks. On 1 July 1953, Minister Wunderlich promised to make available this amount.

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1. Comment. It seems probable that the armament orders have been cancelled only pending the issuance of new definitive plans. No information is available on the new directives for armament tasks.

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